

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
TOM DAVIS, CHAIRMAN



MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release
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Committee to Mark Up House's 9/11 Legislation

What: Government Reform Committee Business Meeting

When: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2004, 10:00 a.m.

Where: ROOM 2154, RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

Background:

The Committee on Government Reform will hold a business meeting to mark up the following legislation:

H.R. 10, the "9/11 Recommendations Implementation Act"

H.R. 10 was introduced on September 24, 2004 by House Speaker Dennis Hastert. It addresses the problems and weaknesses identified by the bipartisan National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (the 9/11 Commission) by authorizing improvements to the federal government's intelligence and security networks.

The legislation creates a new National Intelligence Director (with budget authority), a National Counterterrorism Center, and a Joint Intelligence Community Council, and makes other comprehensive reforms to the organization of the Intelligence Community. The legislation not only takes into account the goals and recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, but also reflects the recent oversight work done by Congress, including by the Government Reform Committee.

Among the provisions of the bill that fall within the jurisdiction of the Government Reform Committee:

- Giving the President the power to submit reorganization plans – limited to the intelligence community – to Congress for a guaranteed, up-or-down vote.

- Streamlining the appointments process for individuals nominated or appointed to positions within the national security community.
- Improving the security clearance process by assigning security clearance policy and standards guidance to the National Intelligence Director and by requiring reciprocity among agencies (ending the current time- and money-wasting practice of agencies doing their own investigations and adjudications).
- Establishing new standards for ensuring the security of identification cards and birth certificates used for federal purposes.
- Revitalizing the FBI workforce and bolstering the agency's intelligence operations.
- Requiring agencies to enhance their planning for information security needs.

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